

TV CANDIDS

by
Terrence O'Flaherty

Sometimes I think the wasteland is on this side of the picture tube.

The arrival of summer is invariably a signal for letter writers to attack television savagely for the practice of repeating the past year's programs for 12 weeks. These letters provide hearty evidence for the claim that Americans are spoiled by a surplus of entertainment.

I believe television's major fault is that there is too much of it. If it wasn't yakking away for 20 hours a day on all channels there might be a better chance for quality productions. So, along comes summer and the viewers squawk because they can't see a new show every week. Try another program on the opposite channel and watch a whole new series you didn't see while watching your favorite!

Better yet—take a walk around the block. If you know a policeman who will escort you, that is.

★ ★ ★

There seems to be a lack of understanding of the reason for repeats. First, the weary actors who have to crank out these little affairs week-in-week-out need a rest. Second, most of them are making so much money anyway that Uncle Sam just takes it away to build more office buildings to house more income tax officials to levy more taxes to build more buildings to house more income tax officials to . . .

I have a hunch that many viewers can't remember if it's a rerun or not—and when they reach that stage they're beyond hope anyway. In one ear and out the other.

Some readers have suggested that the repeats be indicated in all television logs. Actually it would be easier to indicate those that aren't repeats. Just assume they're all reruns—and be surprised.

It's not fair to blame the sponsor because he'd be delighted to have the shows run all year—except for the fact that audience rating services claim there's a great viewer drop-off during the summer.

However, there is a highly justifiable complaint regarding reruns that is seldom made: They usually rerun the wrong ones.

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The biggest disappointment this summer is that the new Steve Allen Show is almost identical to the NBC "Tonight" show in content and in sophistication. Allen has merely made it possible for the nocturnal audience to choose between mediocrity on the East or the West Coast.

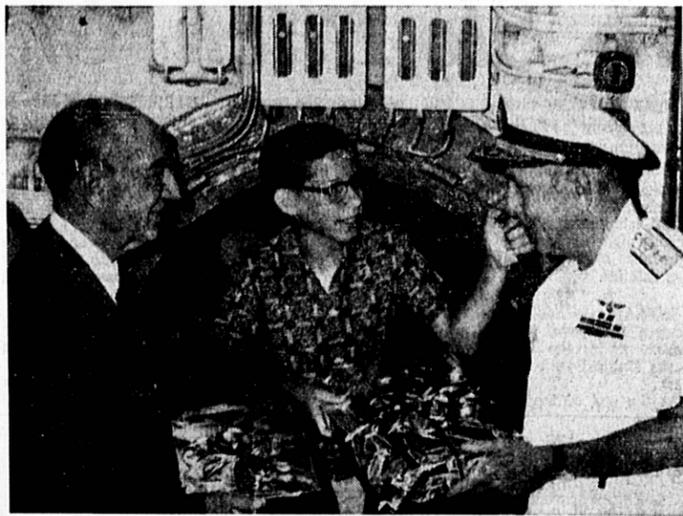
Allen brings to the show unlimited experience in the variety field after years on the old NBC "Tonight" series in the pre-Paar period. But his have been opening programs loaded with gimmicks such as composing songs from notes selected by the studio audience, funny book titles ("How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," by Billie Sol Estes), and wind-up toys. These gags may have been originated by Allen years ago, but they have been done so often by Paar in recent years that they no longer are exclusively his property.

If he intends to duplicate his old "Tonight" show I suspect that he's in for a surprise. We are all seven years older now and time has been moving awfully fast. The format has aged to the point of retirement.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS	1-Boy attendants	4-Lance	11-Refund	12-Needed	14-City in Russia	15-Din	17-Symbol for gold	18-Irish land division	19-Mountain lakes	20-Island of barren	21-Roman gods	22-Britain	23-Guided	24-Fours	27-Young girl	28-Son of Adam	29-Extra	31-Tie	34-Males into leather	35-Indian tent	36-Three-toed sloth	37-Goal	38-Distress	39-Cloth measure	40-Latin conjunction	41-Old womanish device	42-Jerraldie	43-Ready	44-Sprinter	47-Speak in low tone	48-Spotted horse
DOWN	1-Allow	2-Instigate	3-Female (colloq.)	4-Latin conjunction	6-Lawmaking bodies	8-Hogs	7-Free ticket	8-Compass point	9-Year	10-Cause	11-Highways	12-Piece from dust	13-Toward the mouth	14-Place in line	15-Searches	16-American political philosopher	17-African antelope	18-Hindu queen	19-Pennies	20-Stratagem (colloq.)	21-Guided breath	22-Furnish with a ceiling	23-Hailed	24-Masonic doorkeeper	25-Warlike	26-Chew upon	27-Sea eagle	28-Exclamation note	29-Number	30-Initials of President	31-Guido's low note

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FOUR MILLIONTH VISITOR . . . Arthur Ley Jr., 1215 Hickory, is greeted by Rear Admiral Daniel V. Gallery, USN, (rtd.), and Lenox R. Lohr, president of the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, as he becomes the 4,000,000th person to see and tour the captured German U-boat at the museum. Young Ley was given a number of gifts as he walked through the turnstile to the exhibit and was surrounded by cameras.

Annual Dog Show Slated For July 21

Southwest Obedience Club will hold its ninth annual American Kennel Club licensed obedience show Saturday, July 21, at 6 p.m. More than 300 dogs from the area are expected to be entered in the show. The dogs and their owners will compete for 66 gold class trophies and 75 breed obedience trophies.

ALL JUDGES for the event have been approved by the American Kennel Club. They will judge the dogs for obedience, and each dog must earn at least 170 of the possible 200 points.

Herb Wegner, a trainer of TV fame, will exhibit a fast-moving relay performance during the show.

INFORMATION about the show and new training classes may be obtained from officers of the club. New classes will begin Saturday, July 21, at 1 p.m. and Tuesday, Aug. 7, at 7 p.m.

Peace is the promise and reward of rightness. —Mary Baker Eddy

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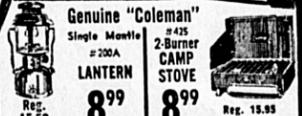
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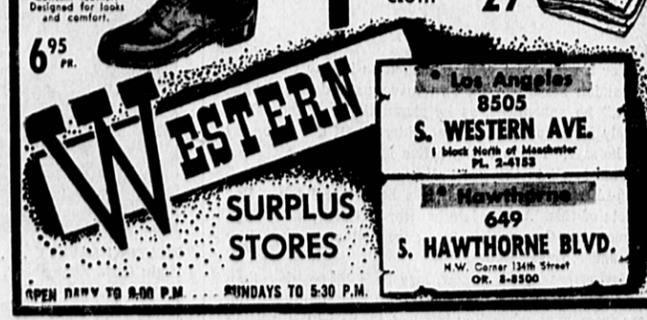
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